

The Good News

April 2018

For the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford

A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

The State of the Plate ~ The Meaningful Amount Or - oh my! The Preacher's gottin into some serious meddlin!!!

I have often heard the statement invoked: "God loves us so much that God loves us just the way we are." More often I fail to hear the rest of the statement: "But, God loves us too much to let us stay the way we are." In the Christian faith we hear much that points us to this with phrases like sanctification, growing in Christ, maturing, faith development, commitment, running the good race, spiritual formation, gratitude, and the stewardship of our lives. What an adventure this can mean for us when we no longer just stay the way we are! Yet, so easily, our faith journey, instead of being an adventure, can become a heavy chain of obligations. We cling to the status quo, hoping we can get by without too many crises or challenges. We become content with the usual routine.

Our giving, our financial support, can also become a complacent routine. Stewardship, simply put, is not a routine matter. It is a spiritual discipline. The impulse to give puts you in touch with the best part of yourself and the principles of abundance that are alive, well, and evident in your life. I like the way the Canadian Theologian Ken Walker puts it:

"In this context, the fundamental issue in Christian giving is not to make a connection between a believer's checkbook and a congregation's expenses, but to emphasize the much more meaningful relationship between a believer's financial resources and their faith in God."

Giving is not necessarily based on ability. I believe it is based on understandability. Hear me out. When we understand giving as an expression of gratitude for what we have received, we find ourselves on solid biblical footing. In addition, we are liberated from asking the perennial question, "How much should I give?" The question becomes, "Am I living up to my potential as a faithful steward?" Such an assessment requires brutal honesty. It also requires us to set aside all those things that limit vision and restrict enthusiasm.

Think of it this way: In the life of First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford, on the average, 1/3 of the operating budget comes from 26 households who pledge an average annual gift of \$9,300. Roughly 1/4 of the operating budget comes from 72 households who pledge an average of \$2,900. A little less than one fifth of planned pledged income comes from 123 households at an average of \$830. That's a total of 221 households out of a potential of 418 households. The aggregate of those pledges equals \$552,976. The annual operating budget is \$771,850. There are 195 households that provide support for the church but do not make a pledge or provide an indication of the level of their planned financial participation. That support is no less faithful, equally essential, and all are grateful for it.

Presbyterians, so say the statistics, on average, give a little north of 2% of their annual income. During the Great Depression it was 3.3%. The median income for a household in the town of Pittsford (according to Wikipedia) is \$119,500. We have 418 potential giving households in the life of this fellowship. 2% (\$2,390) of the median household income times 418 is well-nigh a million dollars. Think of all the marvelous ministries that take place in this fellowship that could be multiplied! Or, try this one. 150% of the federal poverty guidelines for a 3-member household comes to around \$32,000. Consider if everyone of our giving households (and there is the potential of 418) existed at the poverty level, say - \$32,000 a year. Consider further, if each household gave 5% of their annual income. Our pledged income would be nearly 700 K. The question to ponder: Am I living up to my potential as a faithful steward? All that really matters is the meaningful amount that you and God have figured out. That takes prayer, thought, humility, and a healthy dose of gratitude. Give what feels right. Not what is left.

Says C.S.Lewis (*Mere Christianity*):

"I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. If our giving habits do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we want to do but cannot do because our giving expenditures exclude them."

The Easter event is a reminder that God loves us so much that God, in Jesus Christ, has given everything for us. God likewise loves us too much to let us stay the way we are. My choice is to respond in ways that are more than routine; based less on ability than understandability; are measured by a meaningful amount; are *proportionate*; and begin to tap at my true potential.

Yours in faith,

~Jeffrey

Income Tax Tip

Required to make a distribution from a retirement account? A direct charitable distribution is not taxable. And the offsetting loss of charitable deduction may be lessened/eliminated with the new higher standard deduction. Consult your tax advisor to see if this contribution method benefits you. We are most grateful for your support of the ministry and mission of our church.

Invite Your Neighbors to Our Meet and Greet

Wednesday, April 11, 5-7:00 pm, at Church

Family-Friendly Food, Games for Kids, Live Music, Pipe Organ Demonstrations



Optimists

Friday, April 13, 5:30 pm

Christine Froehlich - Gardens in Spring - What's Hot?

Had enough winter? Need a way to brighten your day? What really makes for a great spring? Come let your imagination fly to dreams of what could be! Indulge your eyes and mind with all the colors and smells of a wonderful garden—pot sized or yard full. Save your back and pocketbook by working with all that God gave you: plants, weeds, and invasive species.

Admission is \$13. Sign up in Fellowship Hall on two Sundays before the event, starting April 1. Please plan ahead as we must give an accurate count to our caterer (Smoked Ham with Chutney Au Gratin Potatoes). Bring your own table service and donate a paper product for the Pittsford Food Cupboard. All are welcome.



News from the Nursery School

The beginning of April starts with our Spring Break. We will then start studying seasonal changes, especially those in the farm yard. We hope to visit Springdale Farm and Lollypop Farm. Our YK children will have end of the year parent conferences. We will have our annual Parent Orientation meeting for our incoming parents. We also continue to have several full afternoon enrichment classes. Our fundraising committee will hold a garage sale on Saturday, April 28, from 9am-2pm, please come and check it out! Come visit us in the classrooms, you can view the children's Spring artwork, listen to their beautiful voices, and be inspired by their innocence!

Teresa Zatyko, Director, Pittsford Nursery School

A BIG THANK YOU for your winter wardrobe donations to Cameron's Clothing House. Always appreciated! We will receive winter items for two more weeks, and then will welcome your spring/summer clothing starting in May. Please keep this in mind, as they cannot store out-of-season items in their limited space. Questions? Liz – 223 3052

Knitting Group will get together on Tuesday, March 27, from 11am-1:30pm. Please join us when you can. Bring a sandwich, salad. Laughter is furnished free of charge. Questions? Kay Saxum 385-9807

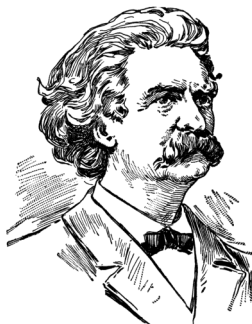
Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, March 26, at 12:30pm in room 200 for the Mission Study Task Force, and if time permits to discuss chapters 7 and 8 of *Rising Strong*. On Monday, April 23, same time and place, the circle will continue discussion of *Rising Strong*.

WEB Club

The Wednesday Book Club will meet on April 11 from 2-4 pm in the church library. All are invited to attend whether you have read the book or not. Please contact Nancy Sprenkle at 381-8990 for further information.

April 11 - *The Gilded Age* by Mark Twain



From Amazon: *The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today* is a novel by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner first published in 1873. It satirizes greed and political corruption in post-Civil War America in the era now referred to as the Gilded Age. Although not one of Twain's best-known works, it has appeared in more than one hundred editions since its original publication. Twain and Warner originally had planned to issue the novel with illustrations by Thomas Nast. The book is remarkable for two reasons—it is the only novel Twain wrote with a collaborator, and its title very quickly became synonymous with graft, materialism, and corruption in public life.

Upcoming:

May 9 - *Luther and Katharina: A Novel of Love and Reformation* by Jody Hedlund

From Amazon: A Christy Award-winning novel chronicling the forbidden romance between Martin Luther and his wife, Katharina von Bora, set against the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century. She was a nun of noble birth. He was a heretic, a reformer, and an outlaw of the Holy Roman Empire.

Deacon Events

- Saturday, April 21 - Game Night - 7pm Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, April 22 - Cooking Club - 5pm Fellowship Hall - Potato bar and Salad Bar. Cost \$7

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Debbie Matrachisia at 752-5584.

Lectionary for April

April 1 Resurrection of the Lord / Easter	April 8 Second Sunday of Easter	April 15 Third Sunday of Easter	April 22 Fourth Sunday of Easter	April 29 Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9 Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43 John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8	Acts 4:32–35 Psalm 133 1 John 1:1–2:2 John 20:19–31	Acts 3:12–19 Psalm 4 1 John 3:1–7 Luke 24:36b–48	Acts 4:5–12 Psalm 23 1 John 3:16–24 John 10:11–18	Acts 8:26–40 Psalms 22:25–31 1 John 4:7–21 John 15:1–8



2018 Lenten Schedule

Upcoming Services during the
Special Season of Lent

Sunday	March 25	8:30 am	Palm Sunday Service in Fellowship Hall
		10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service (<i>Requiem</i> by Mozart, with chorus and orchestra)
Thursday	March 29	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	March 30	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service (with FPC Choir)
Sunday	April 1	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service (Port of Pittsford)
Sunday	April 1	8:30 & 10:30 am	Easter Sunday Services

Faith, Fulfillment and the Future

There are many ways you can shape the future for First Presbyterian Church by the way you plan for yours. When someone mentions estate planning, you may only think about A WILL. A Will is the cornerstone of a well-organized estate plan. But, in reality, there's much more to consider on the path to successful estate planning.

Estate planning is the process of managing accumulated assets for the present and the future and can protect, preserve and distribute your investments throughout your lifetime and upon your death. It can help you prepare for possible future needs, such as health problems, accidents, and unforeseen financial challenges and may even reduce the tax consequences on your current assets and future estate taxes. First Presbyterian has been the beneficiary of thoughtful, forwarding thinking persons who have remembered their church with planned gifts. There are multiple resources available to you as you consider estate planning. Feel free to call the church office in order that you may be directed to them.

Transitional Road Map (on opposite page)

Please note the steps for Pastoral Transition and the check marks that have been completed in the process so far. A larger, more legible copy of this visual is located on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.



Kenya Mission Trip

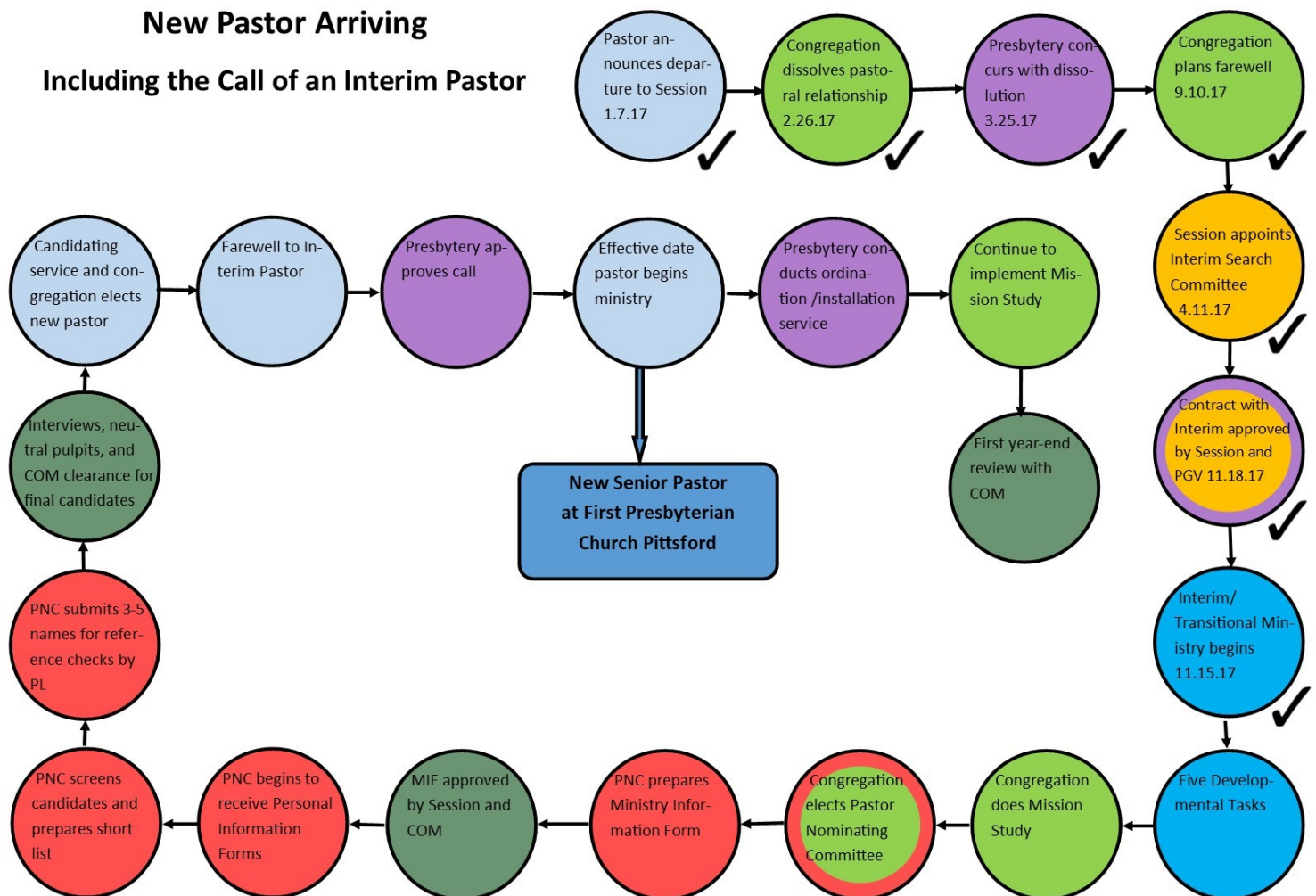
A group of six volunteers traveled in March to the In Step Children's Home in Kitale, Kenya. Our church has been supporting the orphanage's 181 children for over 8 years. Adam Pollock worked at the home for the past 7 years. The first team performed a medical mission by bringing two dentists (Gary and Cindy Groves) and two dental assistants (Linda and Madison Ranslow). The team screened all the children and performed advanced dental work on 40 of them. Then the 70 staff members were able to have much needed work performed.

A few life-changing procedures were accomplished that now let the children smile with confidence and inner beauty. The other team (led by Dan Harrison and Dan Traina) did a construction project to divert water around the main dining hall and dormitory. A new walkway with curbs and gutters was poured with the help of eight local workers. This will allow runoff during rainy season to bypass the buildings. These projects were funded through your generous donations. Many thanks.



Transition from Pastor Leaving to New Pastor Arriving

Including the Call of an Interim Pastor



Upcoming Youth Events—Winter is here and doesn't feel like leaving yet! Make sure you are keeping warm!

Flower City Work Camp—April 2-6 in Rochester

Wonderful Wednesdays—April 11, 18 + 25 from 5-7pm at Church

SOSO—April 15 + 29 from 7pm-8:30pm @ Church

Fundraiser—Cookie Sale!!—April 29 @ Church

Youth Mystery Event in April—Keep your ears open!!

Pittsburgh Mission Trip—July 21-27 @ Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Interested in a summer mission trip with the youth? Look no further!! This summer the youth will be headed towards Pittsburgh, PA to participate in a mission week put on by the PCUSA Pittsburgh Theological Seminary! We will be staying with them and helping with local farms and housing projects through the organizations Garfield Farm and Openhand Ministries!! The dates for the trip (including travel) are July 21-27!! Make sure to let Tyler know if you are interested!

As you can see in the pictures around this page, the youth had some fun times on our trip to Washington D.C. Not only did we get to do some fun things like touring the Capitol Building or seeing the monuments at night, but we were given the opportunity to work with and learn more from different mission organizations, specifically around the topic of poverty in the larger urban areas. One day, the youth were able to participate at the largest food bank in the country, the **Capitol Area Food Bank**. As you can see, we had a wonderful time sorting thousands and thousands of gallons of milk, which pretty much takes up one day a week for the organization. Another mission organization we worked with was **A Wider Circle**! Here, impoverished families are provided with everything they could possibly need to live a sustainable life. Donations are brought in constantly ranging from beds and chests of drawers, to suits and ties. A Wider Circle is all about helping families transition from homelessness to a furnished home, educational training, and a happy life. Some of us got to help with the heavy lifting as you can see to the right. All in all the trip was a huge success! Most importantly, the youth were able to learn that they could continue to make these differences right here in Rochester whenever they want. Until our next mission trip!





He has risen so
that not even
death can keep
us from love

Christian Education

Teacher Appreciation April 15

All Teachers and Shepherds are invited to join together for a lunch on Sunday, April 15, at 11:30am. Please bring your partner and children if you desire. We will eat together and then briefly talk about the Christian Ed. program. This is provided to say thank you for enabling Christian Education to happen. Look for an email with signup.

A Hitchhiker's Guide to Reformed Faith

Last month we talked about the reformed ideas in the five solas. This month we will explore Covenant Theology. If you have a desire to learn more about your Presbyterian faith and what we believe, this is the class for you.

Because of Easter this month we will meet on April 8, at 11:45 am in room 200. Childcare will be provided upon request.

Children will Lead Worship on May 6

The Children's youth choir and the Sunday school program will be working together to lead worship on May 6. Sunday mornings through April children will be able to be a part of the youth choir and learn music, create a sermon video, or practice a reading in preparation for the service. This will be a hands-on chance for kids to choose how to use their talents and learn about worship. No matter how your children would like to participate, there is a place for them.

If you are not able to make Sunday mornings but would still like to participate, we will be sending out requests for videos to be made outside the church to support the Sermon theme. These videos can then be sent in to become part of the worship service.

First Watercolor Collaboration

Cindy Barben and Craig Kunkle invite ALL to sign up for the First Watercolor Collaboration. The next date is Thursday, April 19, at 6:30 pm in room 204 upstairs. Painters of all ability levels welcome. We will collaborate on technique and form. Some brushes, paint, and paper provided or bring your own. Bring something to work on yourself or paint the easy picture provided with guidance.

Upcoming Events


Men's Prayer Breakfast	4/8 7:00 am
Optimists	4/13
Anthony Circle	4/12
Naomi Circle	4/16
Eve Circle	4/23
Not so Basic Bible	Mondays
Prayer Support Group	Mondays
Lectionary Study	Weds.
Men's Ecumenical	Thursdays
Adult Study	Sundays 9:45 am

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*... God loves us too much to let us
stay the way we are.*

<p>The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey D. Weenink Interim Pastor Ext. 25 jeffrey.weenink@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>The Rev. Dr. Carrie Mitchell Associate Pastor Ext. 32 carrie.mitchell@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Craig Kunkle Director of Christian Education Ext. 30 craig.kunkle@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Tyler Logan Director of Youth Ministry Ext. 31 tyler@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Britta Konau Office & Communications Coord. Ext. 21 britta.konau@pittsfordpres.org</p>	<p>Jackie DiStefano Financial Administrator Ext. 23 treasurer@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>John O'Flaherty Custodian Ext. 33</p> <p>Bill Mullins Assist. Custodian</p> <p>Dr. Jared Chase Director of Music musicdirector@pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Dr. Bruce Frank Organist bfrank345@gmail.com</p> <p>Dede Holmes Director of Youth Choirs dmh91654@frontiernet.net</p> <p>Dr. Mary Carlson Director of Hand Bell Choir mcarlson74@gmail.com</p>	<p>First Presbyterian Church 21 Church Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone 585 586-5688, Fax 585 586-8090 E-mail connect@pittsfordpres.org Web page www.pittsfordpres.org</p> <p>Worship With Us Please join us for Sunday morning worship.</p> <p>Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:00 am Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month.</p> 
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